

Council Minutes

September 16, 2024

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Dolores Pemble, Dave Fry, Maria Gathje, Natalie Carda, Jen Klos, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt

Call to Order by President Dan Strehlow at 6:07 p.m.

Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt

Natalie made a motion, and Dave seconded the motion to accept the Secretary's Report as written. The motion passed.

Treasurer Dolores Pemble

No Council Action Required

August Financials were approved after a couple questions. Minutes from August Council Meeting were discussed, specifically the file cabinet. A new one has been ordered but after cleaning out the previous fireproof file there is room for personnel records to be stored there. We had a financial update on Completing the Dream. All pledges have been received or are in process. Project is on time with a slight delay on carpet. 80% of the invoices to Stotko Builders have been paid. Moving in is expected to commence shortly.

FMT confirmed there are adequate funds in the Building and Grounds account to do the carpet cleaning if they secure a fair bid. We are starting the budget process, and all Ministry Teams should have gotten their reports from Christine. Budget requests for 2025 should be returned to her by October 10, 2024. A motion was made by Jen and seconded by Maria to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Vice President Alex Zuzek

No Council Action Required

Buildings and Grounds.

The installation of 3 windows in the old sanctuary facing the courtyard was led by Dan Strehlow, with the help of Dave Fry, Steve Wolverton and Dave Tank. This was a major building improvement which had waited for attention and is now fully replaced and repaired. Huge thanks are due to these men.

Many other building needs have been recently accomplished such as the pending repair of the AC unit in the Youth Room which went out mid-August. An assessment was made by a technician from Controlled Air which sold it to us in April of 2022. A manufacturer's warranty will cover the new coil that it needs but the labor will be SPLC's responsibility. Total cost of the AC matter will be \$1,300 which includes the initial service call. (Invoice not paid yet, repair will be done Sept. 17)

A plumbing matter needed to be done recently in the older women's restroom across from the prayer chapel, by Majeski Plumbing.

Bruce Arndtson recently trimmed a tree near the ELC playground, which the children were liking to tug on.

New business--discussion of opening up the driveway exit that enters Pleasant Drive. The removal of two Juniper shrubs will be under consideration on the south side.

Heidi Nelson has done and will continue to do shampoo the carpets with the carpet cleaner owned by SPLC.

Fall tasks such as grounds clean up and mechanical inspections will be conducted as scheduled. Date for a fall clean-up is TBD. Shovels and salt will be put in the vestibule in late fall.

President Dan suggested that an inventory be compiled of what St. Philip's has—example—vacuums, shampooer, as well as an electrical map indicating circuits/outlets.

Serving Ministry Report—Dave Fry

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

OLD BUSINESS:

1. LEDUC CONCERT AND PIE AUG 25: It was an EXTREMELY HOT night! We appreciate all those brave souls that set up and served the concert goers, the musicians playing under difficult conditions, and especially those who came out to support! There were 20 pies donated, (18 would have been enough), 2 pans of brownies, 2 buckets of ice cream. Profits were \$844 which helps towards LSS in the general fund. Glenda will send a recap for the newsletter. Glenda would like to see 2 people take over in organizing the event in the future.

2. DISTRICT STAFF APPRECIATION IDEAS: Camille Johnson-Oster offered to chair an ad hoc committee to find ways to support school staff throughout the year. She will call members to create the committee. Ideas considered were: making a list of district staff among our congregation (teachers, office, bus drivers, etc., how to do that?) sending cards of support, adopting a school, doing things throughout the year, not just conference or workshop times, prayers lifted up throughout the year in bulletin.

3. BLOODMOBILE AUG 22: Thanks again, Katy Lindberg for organizing and those who helped volunteer with the blood drive: Gerri Lundby, Patty Todnem, Jeannie Evans, Mary Rock, Darla, Deb Frandrup, Steve Wolverton, Camille. We collected 44 pints of blood, and were recognized by the Red Cross for our 6th year of having more than 30 pints collected.

4. MARTHA SOFIA FUNERAL SEPT 12 at 11:30: Because of construction and preschool in second week of school year, preschool will dismiss from the door out the learning room. About 75 for luncheon to follow. Kathy and Glenda have volunteers. Set up: Patty, Darla, Mary C; Clean up: Mary R, Jan Misegades, Lois Twedt

SOLVEIG DIRKS FUNERAL SEPT 14 at 2:00: About 40 are expected for refreshments after funeral.

5. HALLOWEEN DOWNTOWN EVENT SUNDAY, OCT 27 2-5: Date was put in Sept. newsletter. Lista will make charts for all the donations of food and volunteers needed. We don't have leftovers from last year. Streets will be closed from noon on; vehicles can be in set up area until 1:30, ready to go by 1:45. We will again pass out hot chocolate and candy. Downtown Business organizer, Kelly Carter said can expect up to 1,000 participants!

6. PHILADAZZLE DEC 1: Planning meeting is set for Tues., Sept 17 at 5:00: All fellowship members are encouraged to join the steering committee as we plan another fun evening of food, fellowship, and music.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MEALS FOR HUNSTADS: We had 8 people sign up to help with meals over 2 week period. The family was most appreciative of our help. They moved Avis and Duane to an assisted facility in Maple Grove to be closer to a son who lives there. We will try to get an address to share with the congregation.

2. MILITARY RECOGNITION: Lista will put a request for any changes of military members in the October newsletter. We'll send out Veterans Day cards in Nov.

3. NOV. 3 MINISTRY VIDEO FOR CONGREGATION: Council would like to see the various ministry teams highlight their activities during the year, encouraging other members of the congregation to join in. They would like to emphasize that there are many things we do that don't require being a member of our committee. We will make a display board and a small video highlighting our committee's many activities, many listed below.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY Can we find photos of these activities to be part of the power point? These are some of the activities where we involve others without having to be part of our committee, although we are always interested in new members.

- Halloween Downtown Family Fun Event
- Bloodmobile twice a year
- LeDuc concert and Pie
- Prayer shawl ministry
- Potluck for annual meeting
- Funeral luncheons
- Outings like Ladies night out, Saints game
- Christ in our Homes devotionals
- Philadazzle Advent Evening
- Recognition of St. Philip's Staff
- District Staff appreciation
- Meals for families
- New members reception
- Prayer postcards sent each month
- 500 Club
- Food share

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

After determining space was available, the Employee Personnel files will remain in the locked, fire-proof file cabinet, located in the closet of the old office space. This space is renamed: Multi-purpose Room. Access will be allowed only to authorized personnel, as is the current protocol.

Worship Ministry Report– Maria Gathje

No Council Action Required.

Service Debrief: Attendance continues to be good; over 125 on average. Labor Day weekend had the same attendance as Memorial Day weekend at 97. Bells have been a nice addition to worship, nice variety in music.

Children's sermons are well -received. New liturgy will be sung and repeated the next few months, so it will help people to learn it. When any new music is added it was suggested that time be taken to teach it to the congregation by giving them opportunity to listen to it sung once and join in when comfortable. The accompanists will also play it during prelude. A record of previous hymns is being kept to help in future planning.

Microphones/Sound System: There are head phones available with ear hooks for both ears. When there is guest minister, they should be made available to them. A sound check with the head mic should be a priority before the service begins. On September 1, the congregational mics were turned off when the pastor spoke and for the liturgist. The team was asked to review that service online and give an opinion about the sound.

Rally Sunday (Sept 8): Pastor will check with Becky Kaphing regarding having VBS children sing one of the songs they learned for the prelude or as a hymn replacement. This would require the AV team to play the video for them with words for the congregation to follow along and sing. There is much going on, including a baptism.

All Saints (Nov 3): Traditional service with candle lighting. All materials are available in storage. Kelsey will head set-up.

Music planning:

- Sept 15: Unity
- Sept 22: Little children's choir sing
- Sept 29: Bells
- Oct 6: Praise Worship; children's choir
- Oct 13: Choral ensemble anthem; New hymn: #531
- Oct 20: Unity
- Oct 27 (Confirmation): Bells
- Nov 3: Traditional service (All Saints); Children prelude, Adult choral anthem
- Nov 10: Praise worship with Apple Valley band
- Nov 17: Unity
- Nov 24: Bells
- Dec 15: Children's Christmas program
- Dec 22, & Dec 24, 3PM: Bells
- Dec 29; Lessons and Carols

Nov 3 Ministry Fair: Each ministry team will have a display of information about their service. Altar Guild will be emphasized. Descriptions of worship leader duties will be provided at the Worship & Music display. Short videos are requested to be shown for the service that day.

Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

- Current numbers MWF 24 TTH 19 this is an increase of 5 spots since our August meeting!

- First week updates. Off to a busy, but good start. The biggest thing was adding new students and dealing with big food allergies. Will need to spend extra money for gluten/oat free snacks and playdough.
- Dismissal plan for funeral on Thursday was discussed. We will be dismissing from the youth room door for this one.
- Upcoming events include Rio agility team demo, fire truck visit, trunk or treat (Oct 26), possible family night in Nov.
- Culvers has also reached out to us to be part of their community events where we serve food for 2 hours and get 10% of the sales. More information to come on this.
- Budget/staff wages were discussed. Things in this area are also looking much better than last month due to the five new students and cutting of hours.

ASG:

Chuck has blurbs in for September and October.

Pastor is continuing his Campfire Conversations at least through October, doing one on handling divisive issues in September and “Is Jesus Democrat or Republican?” in October (Spoiler alert: neither)

To do:

Doug will contact Starkson, and coordinate what they will do and introduce on Sept 15th.

Chuck to make sure DNR directives discussed, maybe in the first or last one.

Chuck to clarify a little more about what each of the three U of M sessions will cover for the September bulletins.

Chuck still to contact November speakers.

Faith Formation:

* Finalized Sunday school plans.

Group A 10 registered

Group B has 9 registered

5th grade has 5

* Budget was discussed as far as changes for 2025.

* Time and talents sheet was reviewed for the youth section and pastor came in to discuss ministry fair.

* High school event is set for October 13th. This will be onsite laser tag for our high schoolers. Nick will be emailing families soon.

*Discussion of replacing the popcorn machine was brought up.

Interserve:

Rally Day on September 8th was a big success! We were able to enroll students in Sunday School and Confirmation while also celebrating kicking things off this year with inflatables, outdoor play, and popcorn. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with set up, tear down, service and supervision.

Confirmation classes officially began on 9/11, and Sunday classes start this Sunday 9/15. I'm really looking forward to getting to know the kids more as we settle into the programming routine this Fall.

Our High School Ministry event is set for October 13th from 7-8:30pm. We'll set up designated space within the building as a laser tag arena, dim the lights, and have a blast. Snacks will be provided. There is a sign up for students in the newsletter, which will also be directly emailed to families in the coming weeks. Faith Formation team talked about our hopes/expectations for this event; which prioritizes high schoolers feeling like St Philips is a place where they belong and can be a part of a church community in a way that's relevant to them. We'll be looking for more opportunities for these High School fellowship events in Nov/Dec and into 2025. Confirmation Sunday is coming up on October 27th. I'll be working with Pastor Geier this coming week to make sure I'm making all the necessary preparations.

Our Youth Ministry Surveys are live through 9/29, and we have a fairly strong response rate so far. We're going to continue announcing this opportunity in worship and being as targeted as we can to families in our communication, especially to young people and their families. Our Discovery Team will meet in early October to review results and start thinking about 1) next steps for our discernment process and 2) first thoughts on a proposed staffing/program model for SPLC to pursue.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas

No Council Action Required

Nothing new from CMT.

Pastor Geier – September 2024 Council Report

- Participated in ministry team meetings for Worship, Finance, Fellowship, Faith Formation, & Property. (A)
- Visited nursing home and home bound members and celebrated Holy Communion.
- Led worship at Oak Ridge on August 28.
- Opening the Bible class on September 7.
- Rally day preparations
- Baptism, blessing of backpacks and giving Bibles to 3 year olds and 3rd graders on Rally day went well along with packing school kits and playing lots of games.
- First preschool chapel on September 10 and 11!
- Confirmation orientation on September 4 and classes started on the 11th
- Extra meetings for baptism and funeral planning.
- Services for Martha Sofio on 9/12 and Solveig Dirks on 9/14.
- Campfire Conversation on September 15.
- There have been significantly higher than average opportunities for pastoral care.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,
Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business:

Complete the Dream project is waiting for carpet. All pledges are in process.

Bruce Arndtson, Deborah Dreher and Beth Fahlstrom have agreed to serve on the Audit Committee.

November 3 is the Sunday set aside for sharing service opportunities. Many of the standing committees have begun planning how they will share the service opportunities available through their committee. Each committee should evaluate their contribution to the Time and Talent Sheet that is available with the Stewardship Drive, making sure the opportunities for service will be clear to the congregation members. Pastor will introduce the congregation to this plan in his message in the October newsletter. There will be a slide incorporated in the before-service slide loop that will also remind members of the plan for November 3. On Sunday, November 3, Congregation members will learn how to get plugged in and connected with a service opportunity. On that day—before service—a series of slides will share photos of the many service opportunities, during announcements—committees will have an opportunity to give a further explanation to the congregation, and following the service—members of the committees will be available around the narthex to share service opportunities.

Social Media Content Creator will be added to CMT and, also, to the Time and Talent Sheet.

The Employee Personnel files will remain in the locked, fire-proof file cabinet and no replacement file cabinet will be purchased.

Carpet cleaning will happen with the industrial strength cleaner owned by SPLC.

Trimming and removal of shrubs along the Pleasant Street driveway will be done as needed.

New Business

No new business.

A motion was made by Dolores and seconded by Dave to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary